GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1422
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015
Complication in RTI Act
Sathyabama Smt. V.

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the news item "One RTI Act but 188 Complications";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts taken by the Government to see that information seeking is not a complex process under RTI Act?

Answer

(a) & (b): A news item titled "One RTI Act, but 118 complications" reported that India has one Right to Information (RTI) Act but 118 separate sets of rules formulated independently by States, Courts, Information Commissioners, Parliament and State Assemblies. It has been further reported that these rules dictate varied fee, application format, number of words, type of identity proof required and mode of payment making the process of seeking information a complex one.

(c): Under Sections 27 and 28 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the appropriate Governments and competent authorities respectively are empowered to make rules to carry out the provisions of the Act.

The Central Government, however, in April 2011 requested all appropriate Governments and competent authorities to review their fee rules and to prescribe fee in consonance with the fee prescribed by the Government of India. The Central Government on 10th July, 2015 again requested all appropriate Governments and competent authorities to review their Right to Information (Fee & Costs Rules) and Appeal Procedure Rules and to notify, if need be, fresh Rules in consonance with the RTI Rules, 2012 notified by the Government of India.

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